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## **Environment Department Makes Report Forms Available for Corrales Air Study**

(Santa Fe, NM)-- The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is making standardized report forms available to citizens in the Corrales/Rio Rancho area to help them record observations about local air quality. These reports will be used as a part of the Department's ongoing, comprehensive study of air quality in the community.

"Making this form available is another way that NMED is working to collect as much information as we can to get to the bottom of the air and health concerns in the Corrales community," said NMED's Environmental Protection Division Director, Jim Norton. "This community deserves to know what is in the air they breathe, and whether there are any hazards associated with it."

For air complaints that have occurred over the past several years, reports have come in a variety of formats, each containing different information. These standardized forms will make air information easier for NMED to digest.

The forms ask for the reporting individual's name, the date, time of day and the location of the event. It offers a list of consistent terms to characterize what happened, including smells and/or physical symptoms. Wind direction and speed are also recorded to establish the possible sources. NMED will compile information received in a database so it can be analyzed for significant patterns.

Physical symptoms may not be associated with any odor and visa-versa; however, odors may be useful indicators for some chemicals. "When we look at the air event reports we will not look exclusively at odor linkage, but it can provide useful clues in some cases," said Mary Uhl, NMED Corrales project leader. "While individual sensitivity to smell can vary from person to person, we are asking citizens to the best of their ability to describe odors (if any) when filling out the Air Event form."

The form was presented at public meetings in Corrales in April and May, and was distributed with the Corrales Comment newspaper on May 9, 2003. Copies can be picked up at a number of public buildings

in the community including the Corrales and Rio Rancho libraries, as well as the Village and City halls. It is may also be downloaded and printed from the NMED website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/index.html>.

In addition to collecting report information from the community, the Corrales project is also creating a physical inventory of all local emission sources, undertaking several kinds of air monitoring, and modeling the dispersion of air pollutants to establish how emissions might be distributed.

For further information contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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